

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A backseamed casing comprising a heat-shrinkable casing film comprising:

(A) a first outer layer serving as an inside casing layer, the first outer layer comprising a first polyolefin comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of:

(i) ethylene/unsaturated acid copolymer, propylene/unsaturated acid copolymer, and butene/unsaturated acid copolymer, wherein the unsaturated acid is present in an amount of at least 4 weight percent, based on the weight of the copolymer; and

(ii) anhydride-containing polyolefin comprising an anhydride-functionality, wherein the anhydride functionality is present in an amount of at least 1 weight percent, based on the weight of the anhydride-containing polyolefin;

(B) a second layer comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyester, and first polyamide; and

(C) a third layer serving as an outside casing layer, the third layer comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of second polyolefin, polystyrene, and second polyamide; and

wherein the second layer is between the first layer and the third layer, and the second layer has a thickness of at least about 5% of a total thickness of the heat-shrinkable casing film.

2. The backseamed casing according to claim 1, wherein the third layer comprises the second polyolefin.

3. The backseamed casing according to claim 2, wherein the second layer comprises the first polyamide.

4. The backseamed casing according to claim 2, wherein the first layer further comprises a third polyolefin comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyethylene homopolymer, polyethylene copolymer, polypropylene

homopolymer, polypropylene copolymer, polybutene homopolymer, and polybutene copolymer.

5 5. The backseamed casing according to claim 4, wherein the second polyolefin has a vicat softening point of at least 90°C, and the third polyolefin has a vicat softening point of at least 90°C.

10 6. The backseamed casing according to claim 5, wherein the first polyolefin comprises an ethylene/unsaturated acid copolymer having an unsaturated acid mer present in an amount of at least 9 percent, based on the weight of the ethylene/unsaturated acid copolymer.

7. The backseamed casing according to claim 5, wherein the third layer comprises the second polyamide.

8. The backseamed casing according to claim 2, wherein the first polyolefin comprises an ethylene/unsaturated acid copolymer, the unsaturated acid is present in an amount of at least 6 weight percent, based on the weight of the ethylene/unsaturated acid copolymer.

25 9. The backseamed casing according to claim 8, wherein the casing film further comprises a fourth layer, the fourth layer being an inner layer serving as an O₂-barrier layer, the fourth layer comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer, polyvinylidene chloride copolymer, polyethylene carbonate copolymer and polyamide.

10. The backseamed casing according to claim 9, wherein the second layer and the fourth layer are directly adhered.

30 11. The backseamed casing according to claim 9, wherein the casing film further comprises a fifth layer and a sixth layer, wherein:

the fifth layer is between the first layer and the second layer, and the sixth layer is between the second layer and the third layer;

the fifth layer comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of fourth polyolefin, polystyrene and polyurethane; and

the sixth layer comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of fifth polyolefin, polystyrene and polyurethane

12. The backseamed casing according to claim 11, wherein a ratio of:

(a) a sum of the thickness of the first layer and the fifth layer; to

(b) a sum of the thickness of the third layer and the sixth layer
is from about 0.7:1 to 1.3:1.

13. The backseamed casing according to claim 11, wherein:

the fifth layer is a tie layer and comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of modified ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer, modified ethylene/unsaturated ester copolymer, and modified ethylene/unsaturated acid copolymer; and

the sixth layer is a tie layer and comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of modified ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer, modified ethylene/unsaturated ester copolymer, and modified ethylene/unsaturated acid copolymer.

14. The backseamed casing according to claim 13, wherein:

the second layer has a thickness of from about 5 to 20 percent, based on a total thickness of the multilayer film; and

the fourth layer has a thickness of less than about 15%, based on a total thickness of the multilayer film.

15. The backseamed casing according to claim 13, wherein the first polyamide comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyamide 6, polyamide 66, polyamide 9, polyamide 10, polyamide 11, polyamide 12, polyamide

69, polyamide 610, polyamide 612, polyamide 6I, polyamide 6T, and copolymers thereof.

5 16. The backseamed casing according to claim 15, wherein the first polyamide comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyamide 6, polyamide 66 and polyamide 6/66.

17. The backseamed casing according to claim 16, wherein the casing film further comprises:

10 a seventh layer, the seventh layer being between the first layer and the second layer, the seventh layer comprising a sixth polyolefin; and
an eighth layer, the eighth layer being between the second layer and the third layer, the eighth layer comprising a seventh polyolefin.

18. The backseamed casing according to claim 17, wherein the heat-shrinkable casing film has biaxial orientation.

19. The backseamed casing according to claim 17, wherein the casing film has a free shrink, at 185°F, of at least 10% in at least one direction.

20. The backseamed casing according to claim 19, wherein at least a portion of the casing film comprises a crosslinked polymer network.

21. The backseamed casing according to claim 1, wherein the backseam casing is a lap-seal backseam casing.

22. The backseamed casing according to claim 1, wherein the backseam casing is a butt-seal backseam casing comprising both the casing film and a butt-seal tape film.

23. The backseamed casing according to claim 22, wherein the butt-seal tape film is heat-shrinkable.

24. A package comprising a cooked meat product within a backseamed casing comprising a casing film, the cooked meat product being adhered to a meat-contact surface of the casing film, wherein the casing film comprises:

(A) a first outer layer serving as an inside casing layer and meat-contact layer, the first outer layer comprising a first polyolefin comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) ethylene/unsaturated acid copolymer, propylene/unsaturated acid copolymer, and butene/unsaturated acid copolymer, wherein the unsaturated acid is present in an amount of at least 4 weight percent, based on the weight of the copolymer; and
- (ii) anhydride-containing polyolefin comprising an anhydride-functionality, wherein the anhydride functionality is present in an amount of at least 1 weight percent, based on the weight of the anhydride-containing polyolefin;

(B) a second layer comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyester and first polyamide; and

(C) a third outer layer serving as an outside casing layer, the third layer comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of a second polyolefin, polystyrene and second polyamide; and

wherein the second layer is between the first layer and the third layer, and the second layer has a thickness of at least about 5% of a total thickness of the heat-shrinkable casing film.

25. The package according to claim 24, wherein the meat product comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of poultry, ham, beef, lamb, fish, liver sausage, bologna and mortadella.

26. The package according to claim 25, wherein the meat-contact surface of the first layer is corona treated, and the meat product comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of liver sausage, bologna and mortadella.

27. The package according to claim 24, wherein an outside surface of the second layer is corona treated.

28. A backseamed casing comprising a heat-shrinkable casing film comprising:

(A) a first outer layer serving as an inside casing layer, the first outer layer comprising a first polyolefin, the first outer layer having a surface energy level of less than about 34 dynes/cm;

(B) a second layer comprising a first polyamide having a melting point of at least 300°F;

(C) a third layer serving as an outside casing layer, the third outer layer comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of a second polyolefin, polystyrene and second polyamide; and

wherein the second layer is between the first layer and the third layer, and the second layer has a thickness of at least about 5% of a total thickness of the heat-shrinkable casing film.